Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)
clintoncac.com
Meeting Location: Top floor of Masonic Hall at the Town Complex, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, NY
Minutes – October 14, 2026 – 5:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

Attendees: CAC members: Michael Hurd, Joe Phelan, Margaret Pierpont, Jean McAvoy, Deborah Valchar, Nick Sacerdote

Town Board Liaison: Katherine Mustello

Community Members: Bob Schoch and Linda Schoch

Review and Approve Minutes – September 9, 2026, Minutes were taken by Barbara Mansell. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Margaret Pierpont. Michael Hurd seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

CAC A8090.4	Amount	Spent	Remaining
2026 Budget	$3,400	$1,210.76	$ 2,189.24

Bob Schoch made a presentation about his preservation of Primrose Hill Farm and asked if any members of the CAC could lead tours of the property during the Heritage Harvest Festival on October 24. Due to the short notice, no members of the CAC were available. The group expressed a desire to visit the property later this year or in **2027** to learn about the environmentally important areas and the ways they are being managed. For the silent auction at the event to support the restoration of the Creek Meeting House, Nick offered two hours of garden consulting and Michael offered a donation of wine.

Planning Board – Michael
Six Senses – Meeting October 15th / DEIS report to review

Comprehensive Plan Committee Update – Michael
Survey closed – 650 responses

Regional Resilience Grants by The Understory with the Library
The Library concluded that it was not in a position to move forward with a collaborative application. The CCL & CAC Partnership for Educational Events may be able to work with some of the ideas that came up when considering the grants.

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Clinton Community Library (CCL)&CAC Partnership for Educational Events on the Norene Coller Nature Trail – A "Fall Garden Clean-Up Lecture" was presented by Nick at the library on September 12. Margaret led a Meditative Nature Walk on Saturday, September 19, and Nick led a "Fungi Identification Walk" on October 3 that attracted 14 attendees, including five children. The group discussed attendance at the walks and will investigate which programming gets the best attendance at the Library to help focus plans for next summer. To attract more families, it was suggested planning around school vacations. There was some discussion of connecting with local schools through programs for environmental education, community service and agricultural literacy.

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council Postcards for 2027 – Deborah
Discussed changes in the words on the cards to emphasize CAC/CSC accomplishments and grant money received. Deborah to check with Barbara about prepay on the card in 2026/postage to be paid in 2027. Deborah will email ideas and format to the group in advance of the November CAC meeting.

Clinton Town Board Liaison
Katherine Mustello would like the CAC to provide talking points prior to the Town Board Meeting on the second Tuesday of month for her to present. Margaret offered to provide the monthly report of CAC accomplishments.

CAC/CSC Website (www.clintoncac.com) – Ray and Barbara Mansell
Discussion put off to November.

Town Website – The latest CAC/CSC Agendas and Minutes have been uploaded to the CAC and CSC respective pages on the website as well as on the Laserfiche Public Portal.

CAC/CSC Public Outreach – Jean
Jean is working on a spreadsheet that lists the history of our public outreach. Barbara included the file on the meeting notice email. Benchmarking data report for 2024/2025 was submitted by October 14, 2026. Barbara posted on the town website

Natural Resource Inventory Workshop by CCEDC on September 23rd – Nick attended the workshop. It was geared towards towns who wanted to create an NRI and find ways to work with their town boards, both of which Clinton has done. It was mentioned that a critical environment mapping tool can be made for each town. Visit the NRI.Dutchessenvironment.com. Michael offered to send an email to Scott Kleinberg to learn more.

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Hempost Climate Solutions meeting with Vanessa Bertozzi
Barbara, Jean, Joe and Nick met with Vanessa on Friday, October 9, to observe how the composting process works in Rhinebeck. It seemed that Rhinebeck might welcome more volume and that maybe the Town of Clinton would be given permission to take compost to the Rhinebeck collection site. There are questions for Vanessa. Would Rhinebeck be open to receiving Clinton's compost? What are the options for transport? Would there be a fee?

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force Joe
Barbara, Jim Metcalf (CSC) and Joe attended the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Workshop that was held on September 29th at CCEDC. Barbara attached the 2026-08-25-CSC-Minutes and 2026-09-22- CSC-Agenda to the CAC email meeting notice. Three communities were represented, including Clinton. Groups looked at town maps and discussed items to make them less vulnerable to various disasters, particularly flooding.

Next CAC Meeting: November 12, 2026 @ 5:00pm

2026 Meetings: December 9.
2027 Meetings: January 13; February 10; March 10; April 14; May 12; June 9; July 14; August 11; September 8; October 13; November 10; December 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Valchar and Margaret Pierpont